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Protection of global climate for present and future generations

Letter dated 31 December 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of the statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, Bruno Rodríguez Parilla at the fifteenth session of the Conference of Parties and the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocols held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 18 December 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 53 (d).

(Signed) Pedro **Núñez Mosquera**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 31 December 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Remarks by Bruno Rodríguez Parilla, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, at the fifteenth session of the Conference of Parties and the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocols, Copenhagen, 18 December 2009

Mr. Chairman:

It's been four hours since President Obama announced an agreement that does not exist. He is disrespecting the international community and behaving as an imperial master.

The document that you, Mr. Chairman, repeatedly claimed that did not exist is showing up now. We have all seen drafts surreptitiously circulated and discussed in secret meetings, outside the rooms where the international community has been transparently negotiating through its representatives.

As it happens, Mr. Chairman, the non-existent document does exist. I deeply regret the way you have conducted the works of this conference.

I can anticipate that the delegation from the Republic of Cuba has decided not to accept the declaration you are introducing. I do not need any additional consultation in any other framework or format; therefore, I declare that at this conference there is no consensus on this document.

I add my voice to that of the representatives of Tuvalu, Venezuela and Bolivia. Cuba considers the text of this apocryphal draft extremely insufficient and inadmissible. The unacceptable goal of 2 degrees Centigrade would have incalculable catastrophic consequences, particularly for the small island nations. It would also have a grave impact on numerous species of the biodiversity.

The document that you are unfortunately introducing contains no commitment whatsoever on the reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions.

I am aware of the previous drafts, which again through questionable and clandestine procedures, were negotiated in small groups and which at least made reference to a 50% reduction by 2050. I have here with me those previous drafts that it would be worthwhile making public in this room and releasing to the media and the representatives of the civil society.

The document that you are introducing now leaves out precisely those already meagre and insufficient key phrases contained in those drafts. This document does not guarantee, in any way, the adoption of minimal measures conducive to the prevention of an extremely grave catastrophe for the planet and for human beings.

To Cuba, the content of this document is incompatible with the universally recognized scientific criterion which deem it urgent and unavoidable to ensure at least a 45% reduction of emissions by the year 2020, and no less that 80% or 90% by 2050.

This shameful document that you bring to us is also insufficient and ambiguous with regards to the specific commitment of the developed countries to

reduce emissions even when they are responsible for the global warming resulting from the historic and current level of their emissions, and it is only fit that they undertake meaningful reductions right away. This document fails to mention any commitment by the developed nations.

The Cuban delegation also reaffirms its conviction that the reduction of carbon emissions by the South countries cannot be formulated in such a way as can hinder the exercise of their right to development. This regrettable document fails to notice that concept.

Every idea to pursue the negotiations for the future adoption of agreements on emissions reduction must definitely include the concept of the validity of the Kyoto Protocol and the fact that these agreements will be part of a second period of commitment of said protocols. Your document, Mr. Chairman, is the death certificate of the Kyoto Protocol that my delegation refuses to accept.

The Cuban delegation wishes to emphasize the pre-eminence of the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities", as the main concept in the future process of negotiations. Your document does not have a word on that.

This draft declaration fails to mention concrete commitments on financing and technology transfer to developing countries which are part of the responsibilities assumed by the developed nations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The document is limited to the idea that the developed countries participate in a certain mobilization of resources, which it says can be public or private, bilateral or multilateral, or be provided by alternative sources. Mr. Chairman, by imposing their interests through your document, the developed nations are avoiding any real commitments.

The Cuban delegation reiterates its protest against the grave breach of procedure that has surfaced in the antidemocratic way this conference has been conducted, particularly by resorting to arbitrary, exclusive and discriminatory formats of debate and negotiation. What you, Mr. Chairman, have called "a group of representative leaders" is to me a gross violation of the principle of sovereign equality consecrated in the United Nations Charter, and a mechanism used to impose decisions to the international community and manipulate the public opinion. The lack of transparency in the formulation of the draft documents has prevailed in this conference.

Mr. Chairman, I must register my protest and concern about the limitation of access to this conference of the non-governmental organizations.

The Cuban delegation endorses the positions expressed by the member states of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, particularly the remarks of presidents Hugo Chavez and Evo Morales.

Mr. Chairman, I formally request that this statement be included in the final report on the works of this shameful and regrettable 15th Conference of the Parties.